(iii) Encouraging visits of both nationals and residents to each country.

(iv) Encouraging growth of the tourism industry in both countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding has come into force on the date of its signing.

(c) and (d) Such Memorandum of Understandings on Cooperation in the field of tourism are helpful in promoting tourism to India as a whole including Gujarat. These MOUs serve as an instrument for marketing and promoting tourism from a particular market.

New Yatri Niwas in Assam

285. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmet have formulated any programme for setting up new Yatri Niwas in Assam during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise; and

(c) the details of fund allocated for the same by Government, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govts./UTs, provides financial assistance to them every year for identified projects for development of tourism including the projects for construction of Yatri Niwases.

During the year 1999-2000, in consultation with the Govt. of Assam, a project namely construction of Yatri Niwas at Khaspur, 30 Kms. from Silchar in Assam was sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs with central share of Rs. 18.00 lakhs. The projects for the year 2000-2001 will be identified in consultation with the State Govt. of Assam shortly.

Excavation of Harappan treasures in Muzaffarnagar

286. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Harappan period Gold Jewellery has been found in Muzaffarnagar in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The action taken to excavate further to find out the other hidden treasures?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A treasure of gold, silver and semi-precious stones has been found accidentally in an agricultural land at village Mandi in district Muzaffarnagar. It appears from available media report that a substantial part of cache may have been taken away by the local villagers before the police could arrive at the site. However, about 10 Kg. of jewellery has been recovered by the police and has been deposited in the State treasury at Muzaffarnagar

Subsequent to the visit of officers from the Archaeological Survey of India as well as the local administration, a few villagers have deposited a few items with the Archaeological Survey of India. These include a few gold ornaments and fragmentary pieces of silver. Some of the gold pieces conform to the Harappan period.

(c) While the Archaeological Survey of India proposes to conduct excavation at an appropriate time, no specific time-schedule can be indicated at this stage.

Creation of Tourist Police

287. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen recent newspaper reports concerning duping of Japanese tourists by Indian touts;

(b) if so, what are the details of such incidents which have occurred during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have received a large number of representations urging the setting up of tourist police in the Capital and other metros;

(d) if so, by when such tourist police will be created and posted at various airports/railways; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure safety of foreign tourists in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Crimes including duping etc. is a Law and Order subject [illegible]